

# WORKFORCE OBSERVATIONS FOR WISCONSIN BAY AREA COUNTIES

November 2001



State of Wisconsin  
Department of Workforce Development

## Unadjusted Unemployment Rates Increase in Bay Area Counties During October

During October, the unemployment rates in the Wisconsin Bay Area began to rise in nearly all of the counties. The increases seem to be related to several factors this year. Normally rates will begin to increase in many of the counties during October related to seasonal factors. Also, the nation has been in an economic slow-down for nearly fifteen months. This has probably had the largest impact on manufacturing employment in the region, although, other industries have also been adversely affected.

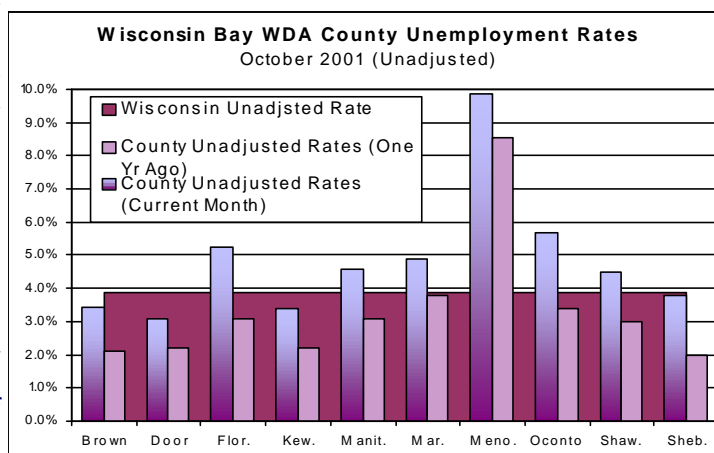
The attack on the World Trade Center in September has not had a direct impact, but in a sense has worked as a speed bump for the recovery of the economy. The primary impact from that is in the airline industry and those industries related directly to it, such as support industries, tourist industries, and airline manufacturers. Although this could work as a positive next year when the local tourist season begins with more tourists vacationing locally. It will in the short term impact local industries as companies in the region have orders cut in response to slower sales. The manufacturing sector will continue to have a hard time as this sector had been most affected during the national economic slow down.

With the exception of Menominee County all of the counties in the Bay Area had increases in their monthly rate. The Bay Area average was up 0.6 of a percentage point to 3.9 percent, the same level as the State of Wisconsin's unadjusted rate. Increases ranged from 0.1 of a percentage point in Kewaunee County at 3.4 percent to 1.2 of a percentage point in Florence County at 5.2 percent. The rates in all of the counties were above one year ago levels. Six of the area counties had rates above the state's unadjusted rate.

The number in the labor force for the region rose by 100 during the month. Labor force changes in the individual counties were much more dramatic and reflected the variety of economies within the Bay Area. Brown County had the largest increase in workers with a growth of 1,000, while Door County had the largest decline as the main tourist season draws to a close and an estimated 600 workers left the labor force. Other counties that had large declines in the labor force were Shawano, down 400 and Oconto down 500. Both of these counties have large tourist related industries.

While the number in the area's labor force remained fairly constant over the month, the number of workers employed declined by 1,800. Only Brown county had a monthly increase in employment. A decline in labor force and employment during October is not unusual based on normal seasonal patterns. However it also should be noted that the average unemployment rate for the region is up 1.4 of a percentage point from last year and every county has an unemployment rate nearly 1.0 percentage point or more above last year.

Although the number of workers employed declined over the month, employment when compared to one year ago was up 9,000. This was below the labor force increase over the year of 14,400 workers to 349,300. Continued growth in the labor force with smaller growth in employment has continually pushed the area's unemployment rate up over the last year.



On the positive side, while unemployment has increased over the last year, there continues to be growth in both the labor force and employment in the area. Only two counties in the Bay Area did not have an increase in total employment over the last twelve months and those were Marinette and Shawano Counties and both were unchanged from last October.

### Nonfarm Wage and Salary Employment

Nonfarm wage and salary employment (NFWS) decreased in only two of the area's ten counties from one year ago. These were Menominee and Shawano, while the region had an overall increase of 5,300 over the year. This compares with a loss of 3,700 for Wisconsin. The major industry affected was manufacturing. This industry represents 27.3 percent of NFWS employment in the region compared to 20.5 percent for the state and 13.1 percent for the nation. Manufacturing employment over the year was down 800 in the region a decline of 0.9 percent. For the state, manufacturing employment was down 29,800 or 4.8 percent. While the slowing economy has had a large impact on manufacturing, it seems to have affected our area less than the state or the nation.

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### Seasonally Adjusted Unemployment Rates

The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was up in both of the metropolitan statistical areas (MSAs) in the Wisconsin Bay Area. The rate in the Green Bay MSA rose 0.5 of a percentage point to 3.9 percent, and in the Sheboygan MSA it was up 0.9 of a percentage point to 4.0 percent. Both areas had unemployment rates above one year ago levels when they were at 2.4 and

2.2 percent respectively. The rate for the U. S. rose to at 5.4 percent, while the rate in Wisconsin increased 0.5 of a percentage point to 4.5 percent.

For additional labor market statistics contact our website at <http://www.dwd.state.wi.us/lmi>.

Wisconsin Bay Workforce Development Area												
October 2001	Brown	Door	Florn.	Kewan.	Mantwc.	Marntt.	Menom	Oconto	Shawn.	Sheboy.	Region	Wisconsin
<b>Civilian Labor Force*</b>	144,100	16,500	1,700	11,100	46,900	22,100	2,300	16,900	20,100	67,300	349,300	3,050,800
Employed	139,200	16,000	1,600	10,800	44,800	21,100	2,100	16,000	19,200	64,800	335,500	2,932,500
Unemployed	4,900	500	100	400	2,100	1,100	200	1,000	900	2,500	13,800	118,300
Unemployment rate(%)	3.4%	3.1%	5.2%	3.4%	4.6%	4.9%	9.9%	5.7%	4.5%	3.8%	3.9%	3.9%
<b>Total, all industries**</b>	152,600	14,300	1,200	7,100	39,800	20,700	2,000	10,200	12,400	66,700	327,000	2,862,900
Construction & Mining	9,300	1,100	100	600	2,100	700	100	700	600	3,600	18,800	136,500
Manufacturing	30,100	2,500	300	2,200	14,400	7,100	0	3,300	2,600	26,800	89,200	585,800
Transportation & Public Util.	10,800	300	0	500	2,000	900	100	400	600	2,200	17,900	137,200
Wholesale Trade	8,500	200	0	100	1,300	700	0	100	400	2,100	13,500	137,300
Retail Trade	25,600	3,300	300	1,100	6,000	3,500	100	1,900	2,600	9,300	53,600	504,400
Finance, Ins., & Real Estate	10,700	800	0	300	900	500	0	200	400	2,000	15,800	152,800
Services	39,800	4,200	100	1,300	8,500	4,700	0	1,700	2,500	14,300	77,200	788,500
Government	17,800	1,800	300	1,000	4,600	2,600	1,700	1,800	2,700	6,600	40,900	420,400
<b>Change from previous month</b>												
<b>Civilian Labor Force*</b>	1,000	-600	0	-100	200	100	100	-500	-400	200	100	12,600
Employed	400	-600	0	-100	-100	0	100	-500	-500	-400	-1,800	-2,500
Unemployed	700	0	0	0	300	100	0	100	100	700	1,900	15,100
Unemployment rate(%)	0.4%	0.3%	1.2%	0.1%	0.6%	0.4%	-0.2%	0.6%	0.4%	1.0%	0.6%	0.5%
<b>Total, all industries**</b>	600	-500	0	0	100	100	100	-300	-200	-300	-500	7,600
Construction & Mining	-100	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	-200	-1,200
Manufacturing	-300	0	0	0	-100	0	0	-200	-100	-600	-1,200	-5,300
Transportation & Public Util.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	100	100	500
Wholesale Trade	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	-200
Retail Trade	100	-200	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	100	-100	2,200
Finance, Ins., & Real Estate	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	300
Services	200	-300	0	0	100	0	0	0	-200	-200	-500	-2,800
Government	800	100	0	0	100	0	100	0	0	200	1,400	14,100
<b>Change from year ago</b>												
<b>Civilian Labor Force*</b>	5,900	600	100	400	1,600	700	0	900	300	400	14,400	79,100
Employed	3,900	500	100	300	900	400	0	500	0	300	9,000	42,400
Unemployed	2,000	200	0	100	700	300	0	400	300	0	5,400	36,600
Unemployment rate(%)	1.3%	0.9%	2.1%	1.2%	1.5%	1.1%	1.3%	2.3%	1.5%	1.8%	1.4%	1.1%
<b>Total, all industries**</b>	2,600	300	0	100	300	200	-100	200	-200	2,000	5,300	-3,700
Construction & Mining	700	100	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	500	1,200	-2,000
Manufacturing	-100	-100	0	100	0	-100	0	0	0	-500	-800	-29,800
Transportation & Public Util.	100	0	0	0	100	0	0	0	0	200	500	-100
Wholesale Trade	800	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	100	800	-2,800
Retail Trade	-200	100	0	0	100	0	0	100	-100	300	400	1,700
Finance, Ins., & Real Estate	-500	100	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	100	-300	3,400
Services	1,100	100	0	0	100	200	0	0	0	1,200	2,700	13,700
Government	600	100	0	0	0	0	-100	100	-100	100	800	12,200

\* Includes participants residing in area. \*\* Includes employment with employers located in area. Estimates are NOT seasonally adjusted.  
Current month estimates are preliminary. Totals may not add due to rounding. Calculations based on unrounded numbers. NFWS data is benchmarked to 3/2000

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Look for the most current Labor Market Information at: [WWW.DWD.STATE.WI.US/LMI](http://WWW.DWD.STATE.WI.US/LMI)

Direct questions and comments to: **Richard Seidemann, Regional Labor Market Analyst**, Sheboygan County Job Center, 3620 Wilgus Avenue, Sheboygan, WI 53081 920-2085809 920-459-3845(FAX) E-mail: [seider@dwd.state.wi.us](mailto:seider@dwd.state.wi.us)